

## Geography Fieldwork for Edexcel A GCSE

Location(s): Studland Bay, Old Harry Rocks and Swanage Bay, Bournemouth, the Corfe, Piddle and Swanbrook Rivers plus a river in the New Forest.



Leeson House has access to a wide range of accessible, safe and contrasting fieldwork localities along the Dorset coastline and in the towns of Swanage and Bournemouth.

### Sub topic 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes

The stretch of discordant coastline from Studland Bay to Swanage Bay is a **fine case study of a UK coastal landscape** and includes major landforms of erosion and deposition. The sand dune system at Studland Bay has been formed by the continuing process of coastal deposition, whereas Swanage Bay contains excellent examples of coastal erosional processes and different types of mass movement. In between the two bays lies the headland of

Ballard Down and the “classic” Old Harry Rocks. These areas give students the opportunity to study the influence that geology has on the formation of particular coastal landforms at different scales, such as headlands, bays, caves, arches, stacks etc. There are many opportunities for both qualitative and quantitative fieldwork at Studland and Swanage, examining different coastal management schemes. Students can look at the managed retreat used at Studland and the resulting conflicts this can cause, and also the soft and hard engineering used at Swanage to Hold the Line.

### Sub topic 1B: River landscapes and processes

Local rivers (the Corfe, the Piddle and a river in the New Forest) provide both qualitative and quantitative opportunities to examine how distinctive river landforms are created and also how these landforms change downstream. The geomorphic processes involved in the formation of these landforms can also be investigated. These local rivers, plus the nearby river Swanbrook, also provide students the opportunity to examine in detail a **case study of a UK river basin**. The catchment area of the Swanbrook includes a variety of different geology and relief, allowing the effects that these factors, as well as precipitation and land use, have on flooding. Since the Swanbrook flooded in the early 1990s a small **flood management scheme** has been implemented in the town of Swanage. The river and the management scheme are monitored by the Environmental Agency and long term flow data and hydrographs are available for interpretation. Interviews with the Swanbrook flood manager are also a possibility.

### Topic 4: Changing cities, Case Study of a major UK city

Although not a major city, Bournemouth lends itself to excellent fieldwork opportunities. Quantitative and qualitative techniques can be used to gather data on Bournemouth and its surrounding areas. Bournemouth is interesting to study as it has multiple CBDs based around the many functions of the city, and consequently has distinguishable building ages and characteristics. It also has some of the most deprived areas in the South situated a few miles from some of the most affluent areas, giving opportunities to look at inequality. As well as primary data there is a large amount of secondary data that can be collected using GIS websites.

For more information please contact Leeson House:  
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